

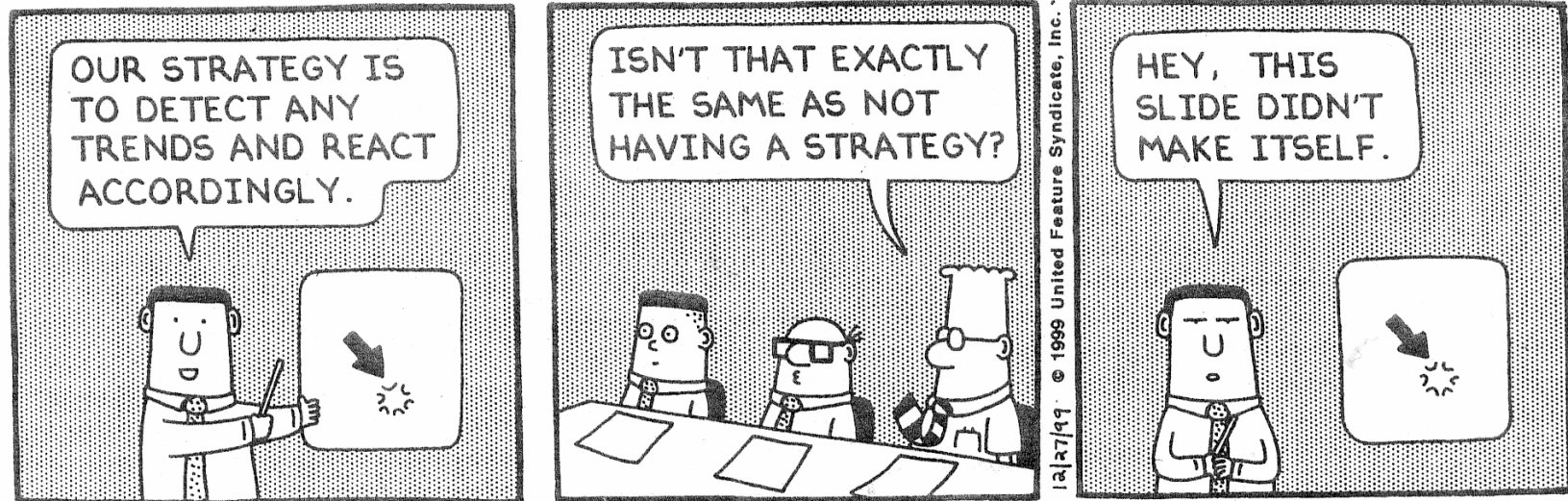


Highway 7 Recreation Improvements Plan



Planning Strategy

THE DILBERT ZONE BY SCOTT ADAMS



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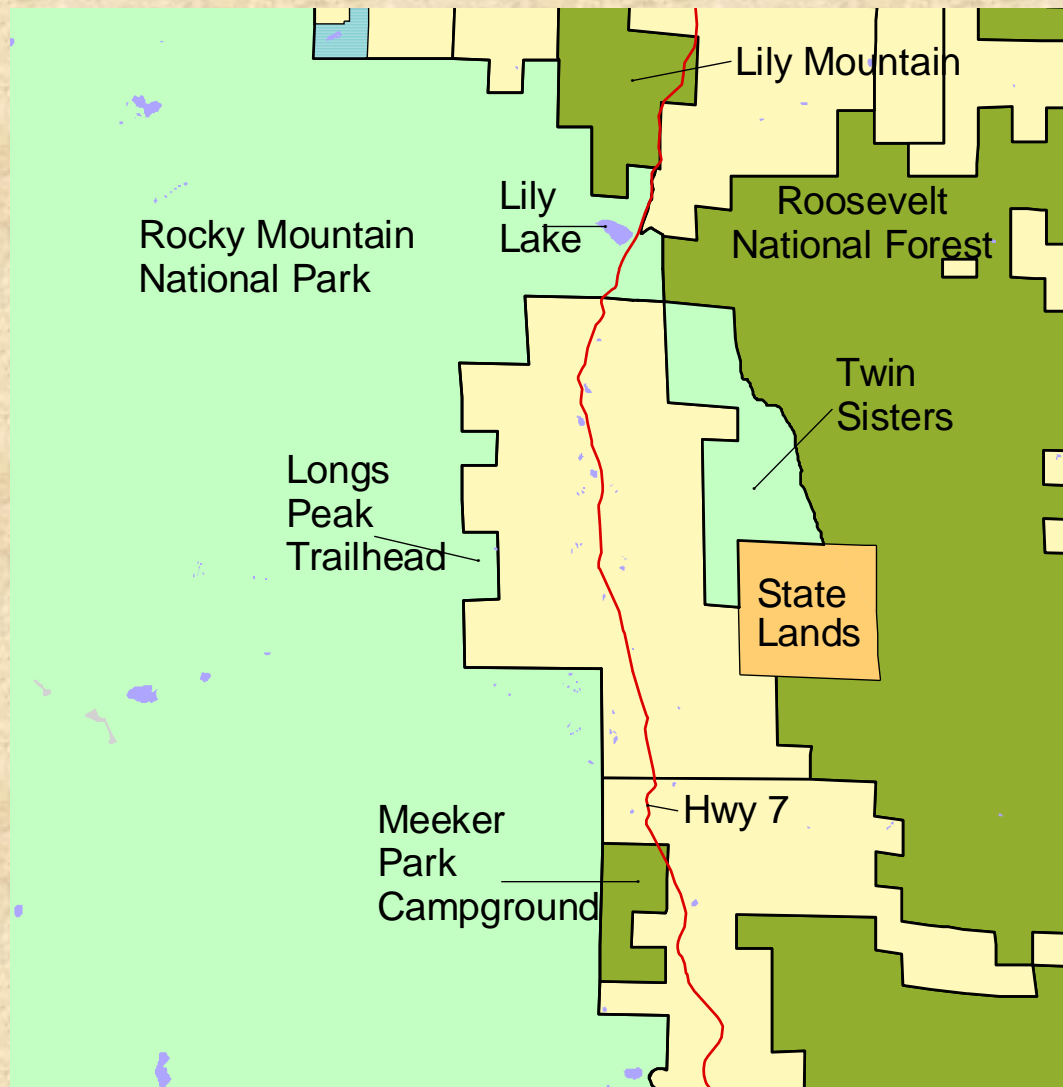


Partnership



- Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest have formed a partnership to develop a plan that will focus on recreation improvements at the following locations:
 - Lily Lake
 - Longs Peak Trailhead
 - Meeker Park Campground

Planning Area



USFS Administers:

- Lily Mountain
- Meeker Park Campground
- Other lands lying east of Hwy 7

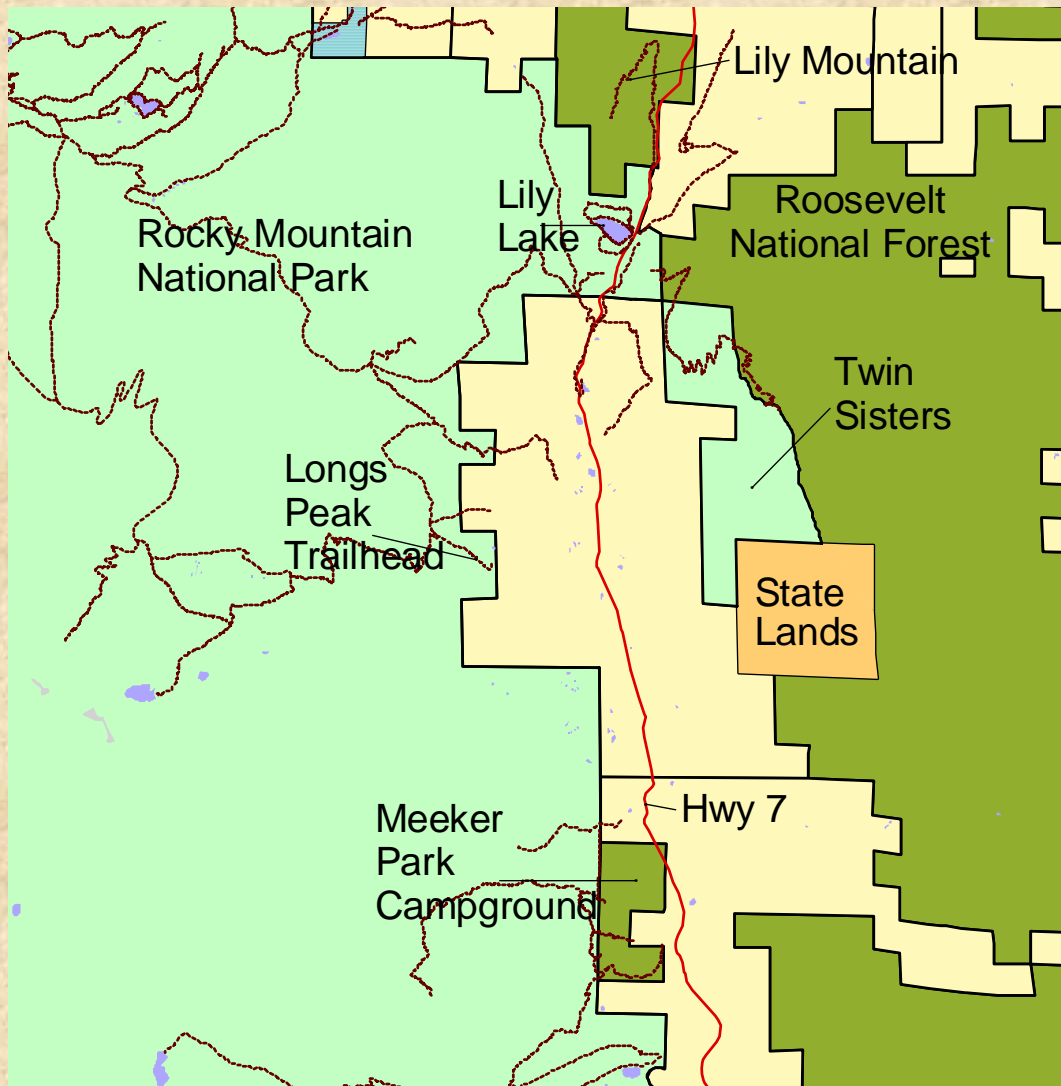
NPS Administers:

- Lily Lake
- Twin Sisters
- Longs Peak Trailhead
- Other lands lying west of Hwy 7

5000 0 5000 10000 15000 Feet



Trails



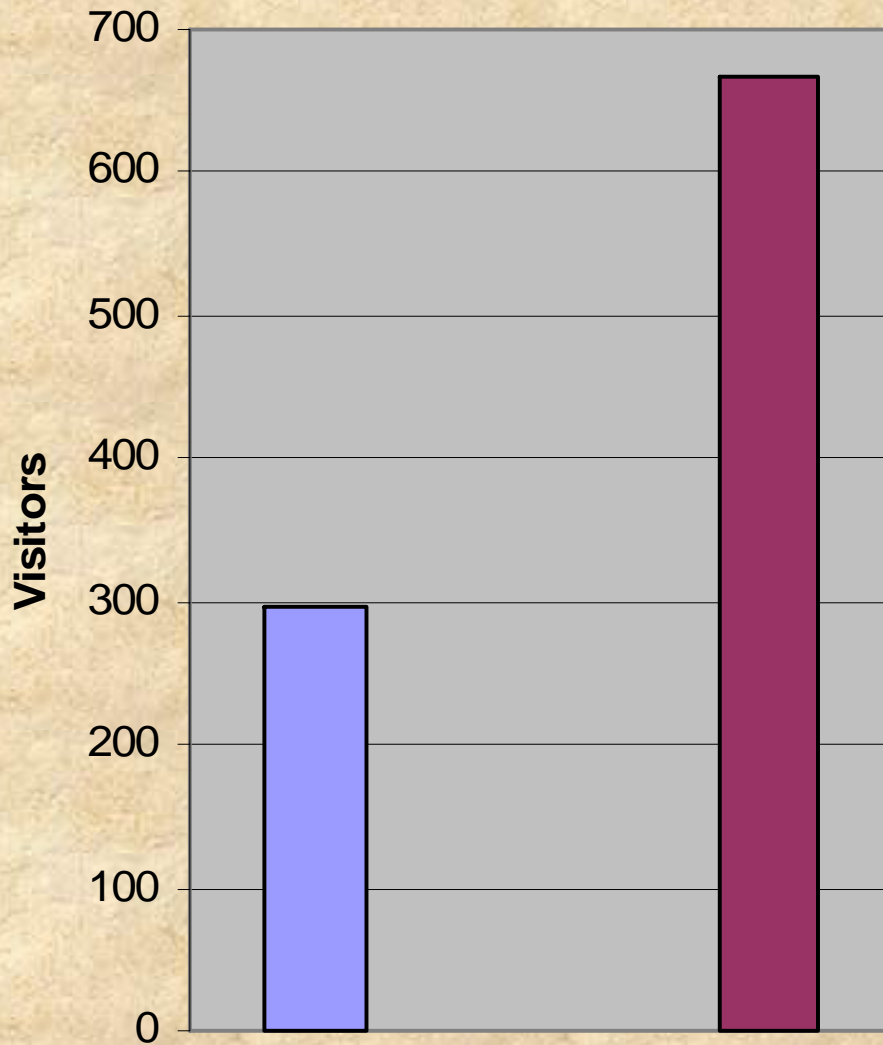
PUBLIC TRAILS

- Lily Mountain Trail
- Homer Rouse Trail
- Lily Lake Accessible Trail
- Lily Ridge Trail
- Aspen Brook Trail
- Storm Pass Trail
- Twin Sisters Trail
- Tahosa Valley Trail (Larimer County)
- Eugenia Mine Trail
- Longs Peak Trail
- Horsetooth Peak Trail
- Lookout Mountain Trail

5000 0 5000 10000 15000 Feet



Longs Peak Trailhead 2002

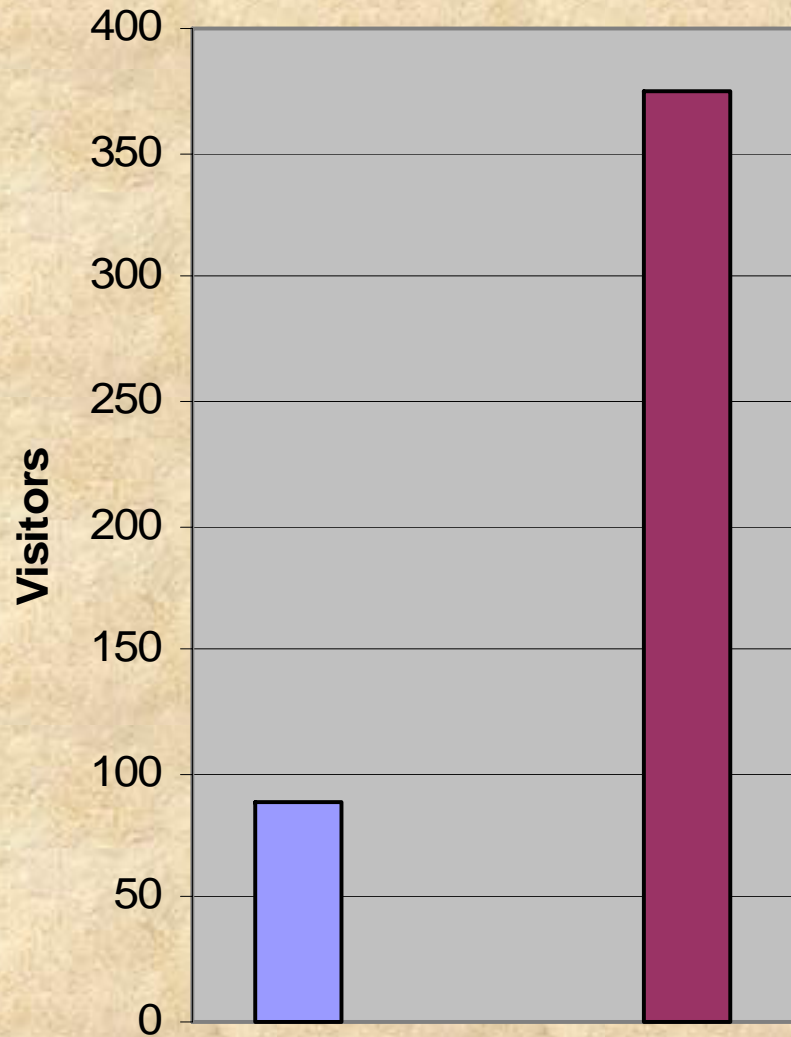


**Total visitors May 31 – October 14
64,230**

□ Average weekday

■ Average Weekend

Longs Peak Summit 2002

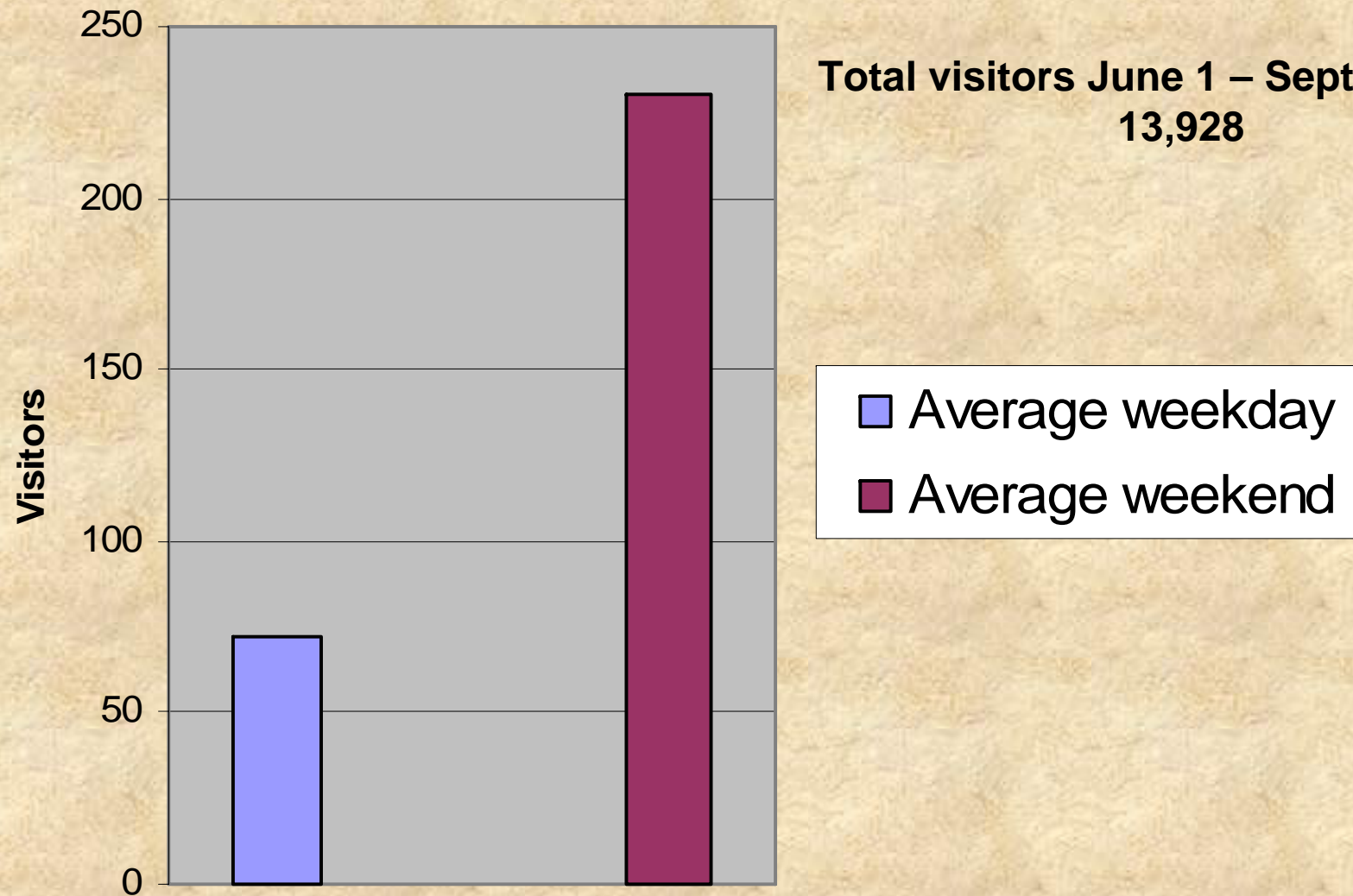


**Total visitors May 31 – October 14
10,888**

- Average weekday
- Average weekend

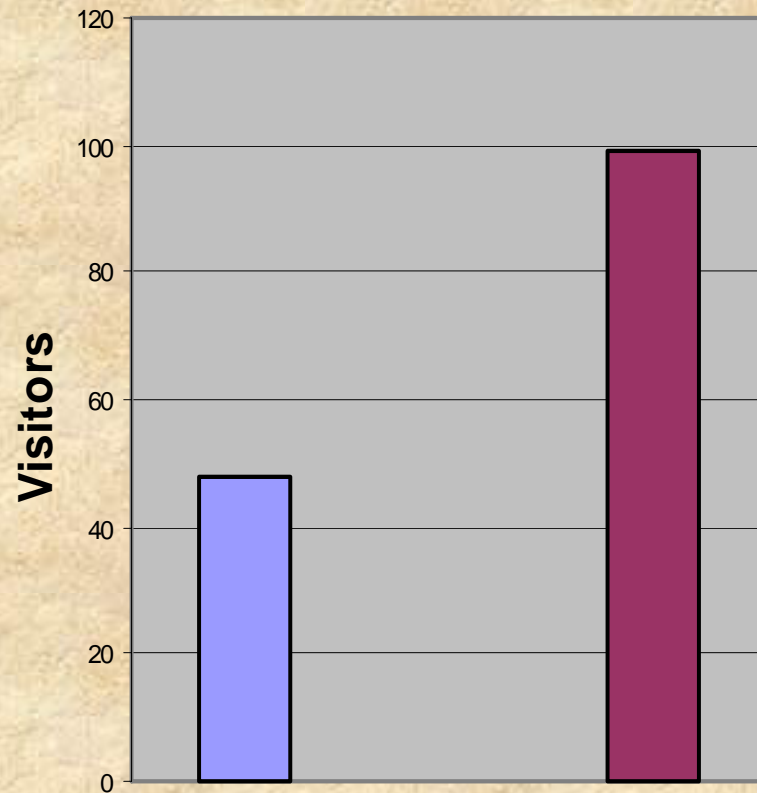
Twin Sisters 2002

**Total visitors June 1 – September 28
13,928**



Storm Pass Trail 2002

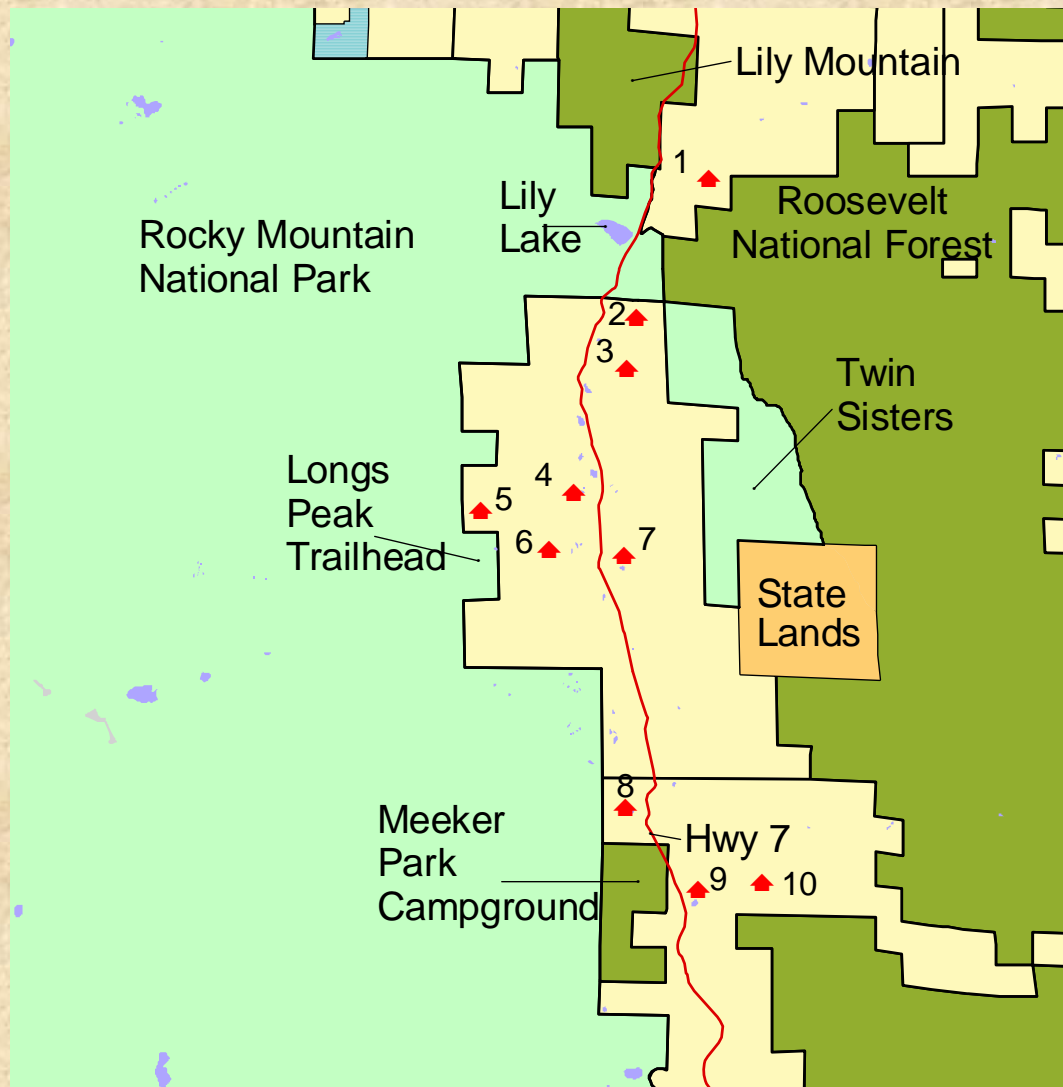
**Total visitors June 2 – October 13
10,219**



□ Average weekday

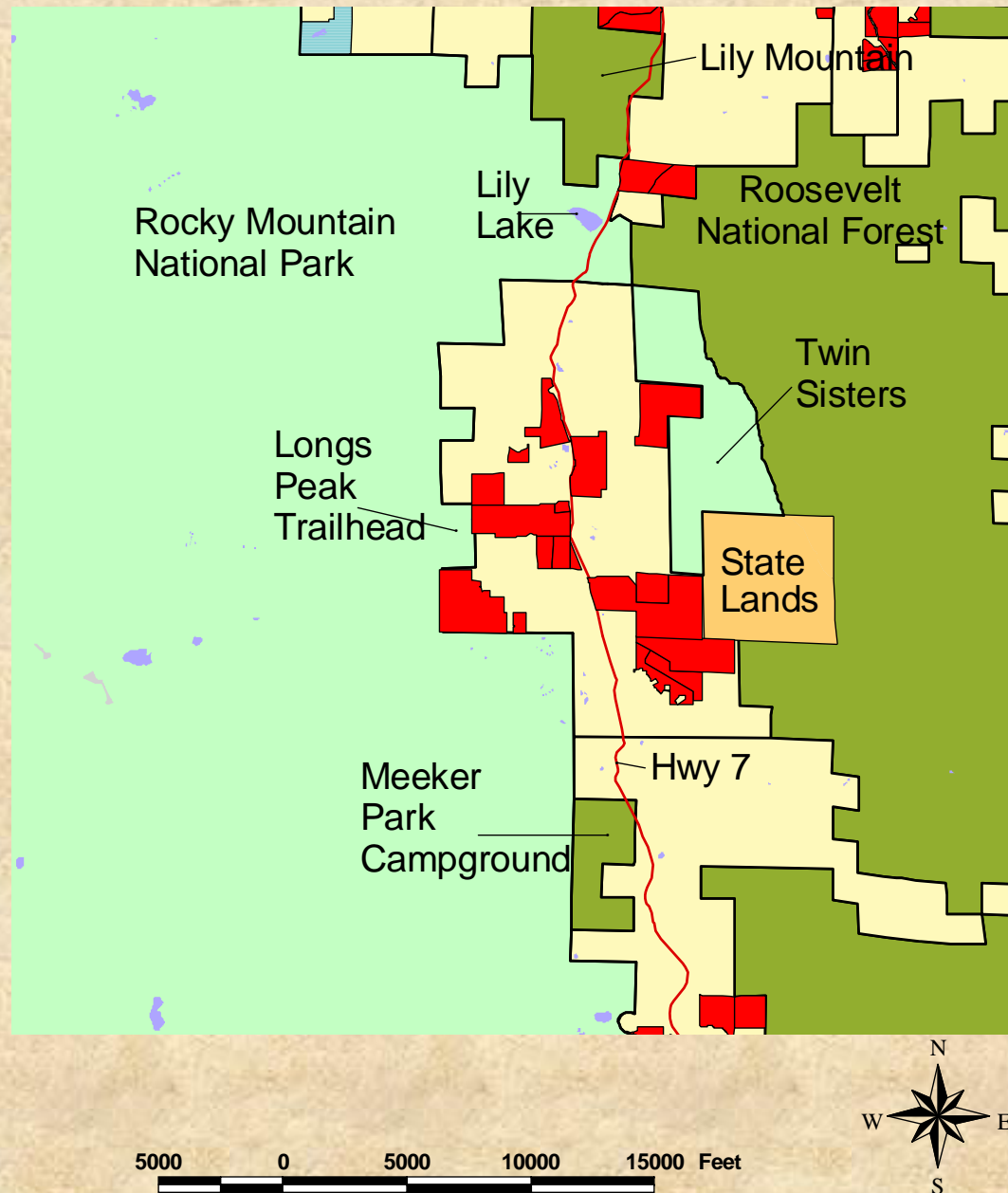
■ Average weekend

Camps & Lodges



1. **Baldpate Inn**
2. **Wind River Ranch**
3. **Aspen Lodge**
4. **High Peak Camp**
5. **Camp Timberline**
6. **Rocky Ridge Music Center**
7. **Covenant Heights**
8. **St. Malo Retreat Conference Center**
9. **Meeker Park Lodge**
10. **Lane Guest Ranch**

Conservation Easements



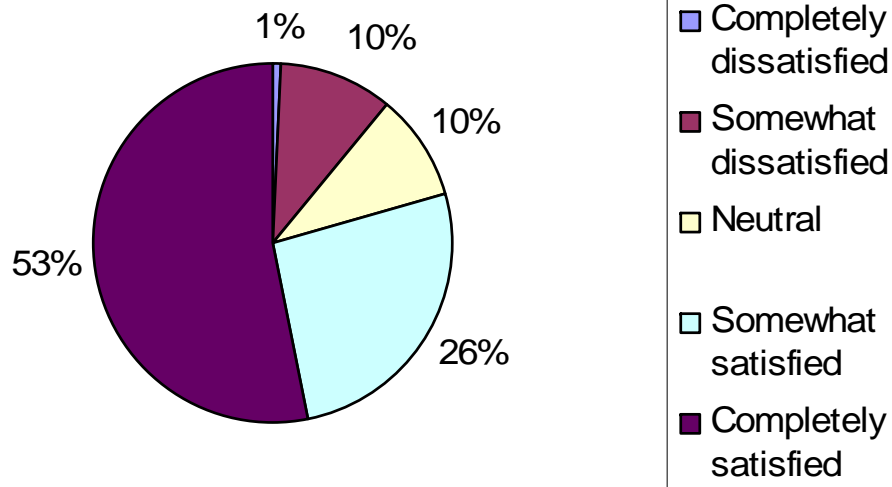
Visitor Satisfaction Survey

- In 2004 and 2005, the University of Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center conducted visitor surveys at Lily Lake, the Longs Peak Trailhead and in Wild Basin.
- Over 400 people were interviewed at each location and in every month of the year.

Visitor Satisfaction Survey Research Questions

- What are the levels of satisfaction with the park resources in the main visitor use areas along the Highway 7 corridor?
- Are there some resources with which the visitors are significantly less satisfied than other resources?
- Are there relationships among demographic characteristics and satisfaction with park resources?
- Are there specific suggestions from the public as to how to improve the facilities at the main visitor use areas?

Parking Lily Lake



How satisfied were you with the parking space for cars near the trailhead?

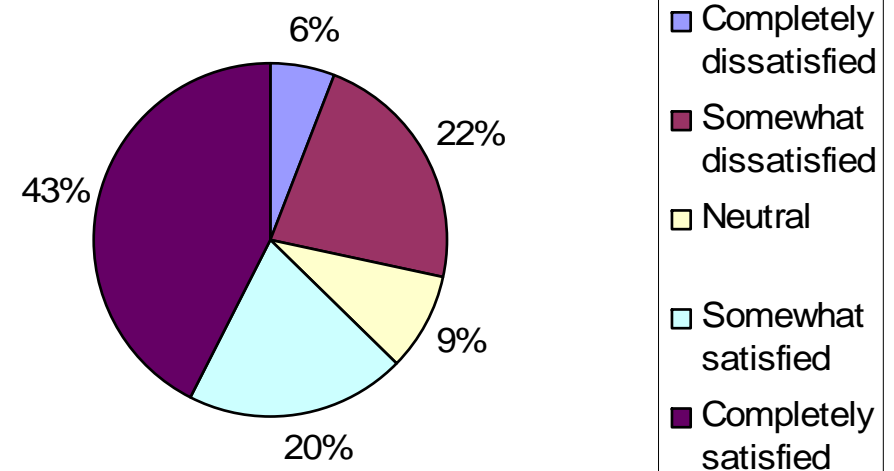
Lily Lake Parking = ~60 spaces
Longs Peak Trailhead = 58 spaces

- At Lily Lake 79% of respondents were satisfied with parking.
- At Lily Lake, 11% of respondents were dissatisfied with parking.

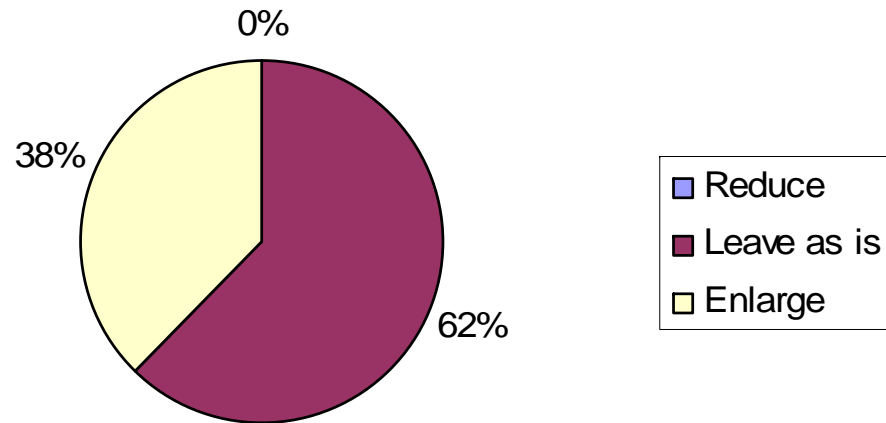
- At the Longs Peak Trailhead, 63% of respondents were satisfied with parking.
- At the Longs Peak Trailhead 28% of respondents were dissatisfied with parking.

* Please note that visitors who could not find a parking space and left the area were not interviewed. The number of dissatisfied visitors may actually be higher.

Parking Longs Peak



Parking Lily Lake



For the parking facilities, would you add more space, leave as is, or reduce them?

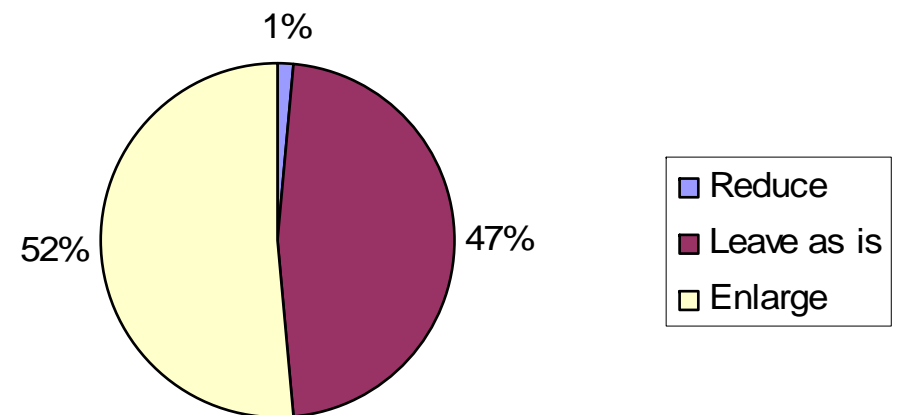
Lily Lake parking = ~60 spaces
Longs Peak Trailhead = 58 spaces

- At Lily Lake 38% of respondents would like to add more parking spaces.

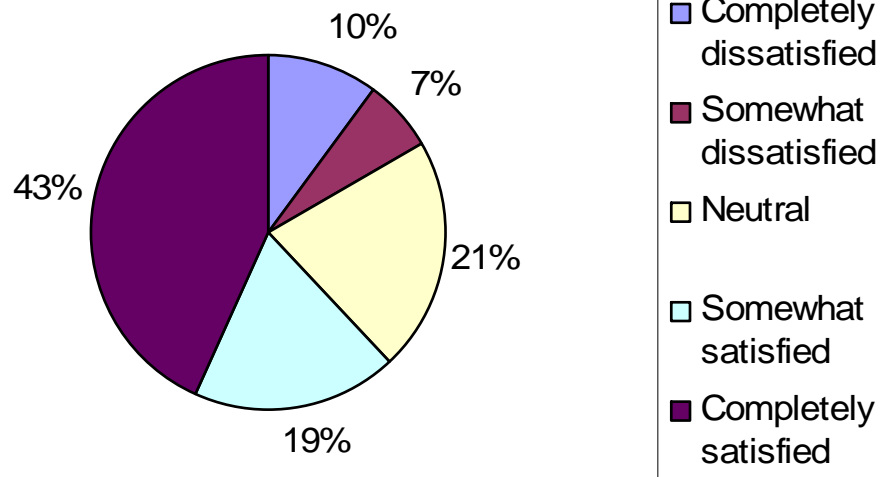
- At the Longs Peak Trailhead, 52% of respondents would like to add more parking spaces

* Please note that visitors who could not find a parking space and left the area were not interviewed. The number of visitors wanting additional parking may actually be higher.

Parking Longs Peak



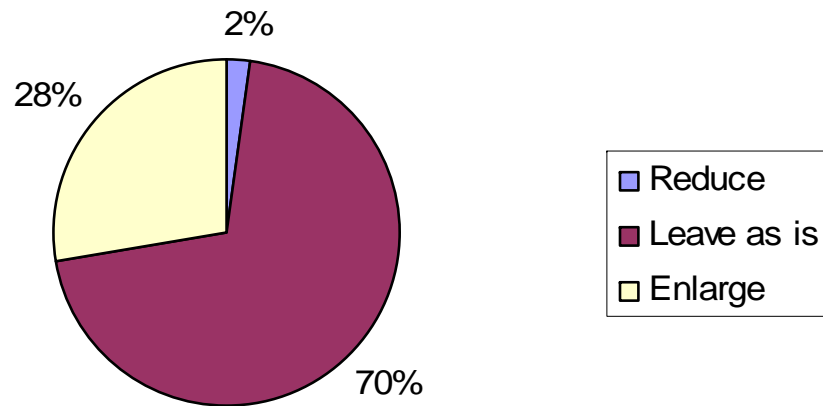
Noise level in campgrounds Longs Peak



How satisfied were you with the noise level in the campgrounds?

- At the Longs Peak Campground, 62% of respondents were satisfied with the noise level.
- At the Longs Peak Campground, 17% of respondents were dissatisfied with the noise level.

Number of campsites Lily Lake



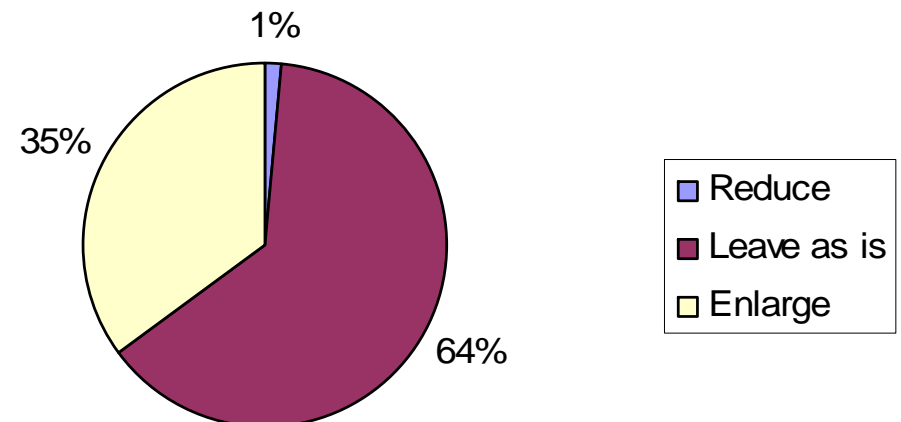
For the number of campsites, would you add more, leave as is, or reduce them?

Campsites at Longs Peak = 26
Campsites at Meeker Park = 29

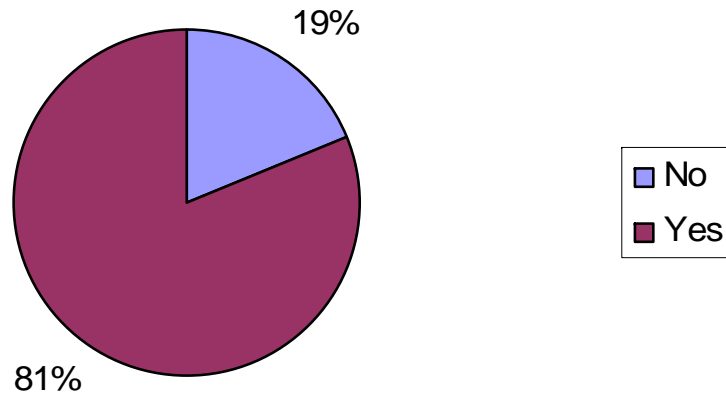
- 28% of Respondents at Lily Like would like to add more campsites (not necessarily at Lily Lake).

- 35% of respondents at the Longs Peak Trailhead would like to add more campsites.

Number of campsites Longs Peak



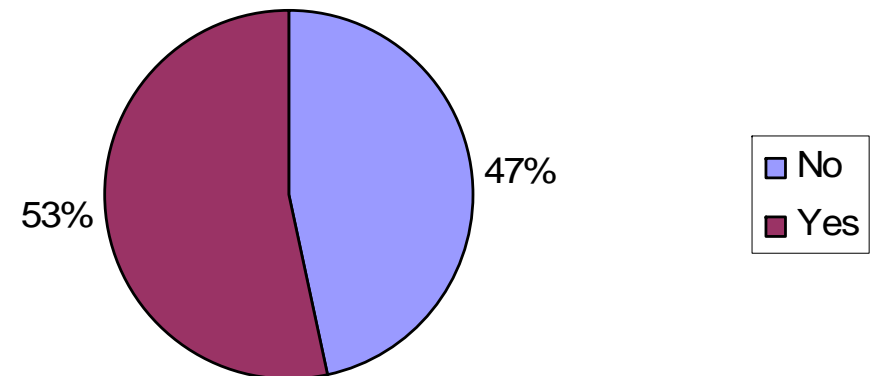
Encourage more people to visit Lily Lake



Would you encourage more people to come to the park, leave the present policy alone, or reduce the number of people who come to the park?

- At Lily Lake 81% of respondents would encourage more people to visit.

Encourage more people to visit Longs Peak



- At the Longs Peak Trailhead, 53% of respondents would encourage more people to visit.
- At the Longs Peak Trailhead, 47% of respondents would not encourage more people to visit.

Lily Lake

Current Conditions



2000 0 2000 4000 6000 Feet



PUBLIC TRAILS

- Lily Mountain Trail
- Homer Rouse Trail
- Lily Lake Accessible Trail
- Lily Ridge Trail
- Aspen Brook Trail
- Storm Pass Trail
- Twin Sisters Trail
- Tahosa Valley Trail (Larimer County)

PARKING

- Lily Mountain trailhead ~8
- East side of Hwy 7 ~20
- West side of Hwy 7 ~20
- Twin Sisters trailhead ~20

RESTROOMS

- Vault toilets west side of Hwy 7

VISITOR CENTER

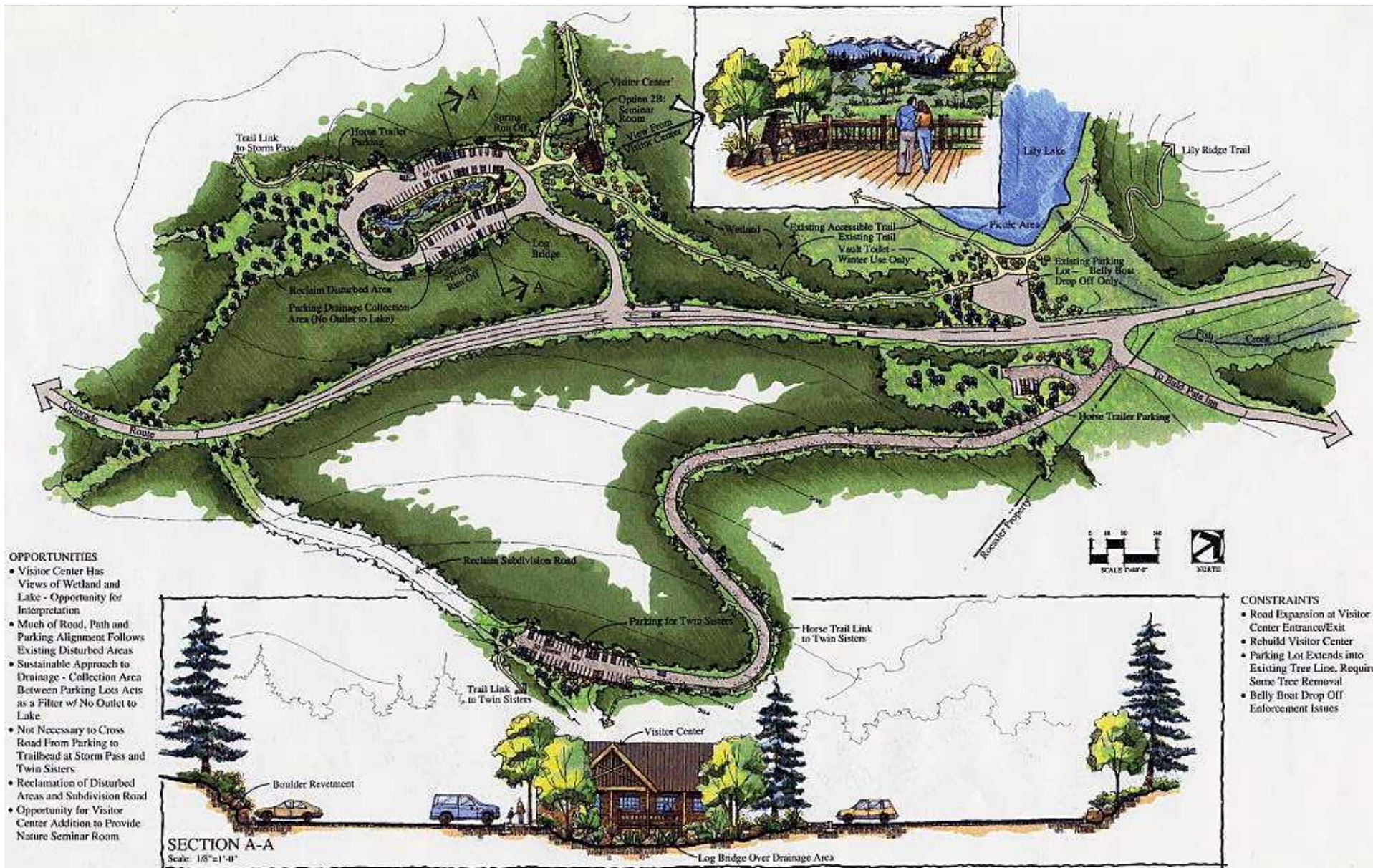
- Currently closed based on 2004 operations review

PARK/FOREST ACCESS FEE

- None

Issues/Opportunities Identified at Lily Lake

- Relocate Lily Mountain trailhead to a safer location
- Locating the Lily Mountain trailhead within the park has implications for dog owners; dogs are not permitted on trails within the park.
- Should facilities be added to facilitate stock use?
- Need to address safety at pedestrian crossing on Hwy 7
- Should the visitor center be retained? If not, what are potential future uses for the building?
- Potential to develop more formal parking lots for Lily Lake and the Storm Pass and Twin Sisters trailheads
 - Potential to add more parking spaces
 - A trailhead parking lot for Storm Pass could be developed in the borrow pit located south of Lily Lake
 - This will require a new access road and accel/decel lanes on Highway 7



OPPORTUNITIES

- Visitor Center Has Views of Wetland and Lake - Opportunity for Interpretation
- Much of Road, Path and Parking Alignment Follows Existing Disturbed Areas
- Sustainable Approach to Drainage - Collection Area Between Parking Lots Acts as a Filter w/ No Outlet to Lake
- Not Necessary to Cross Road From Parking to Trailhead at Storm Pass and Twin Sisters
- Reclamation of Disturbed Areas and Subdivision Road
- Opportunity for Visitor Center Addition to Provide Nature Seminar Room

CONSTRAINTS

- Road Expansion at Visitor Center Entrance/Exit
- Rebuild Visitor Center
- Parking Lot Extends into Existing Tree Line, Requires Some Tree Removal
- Belly Boat Drop Off Enforcement Issues

SECTION A-A

Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

OPTION 2

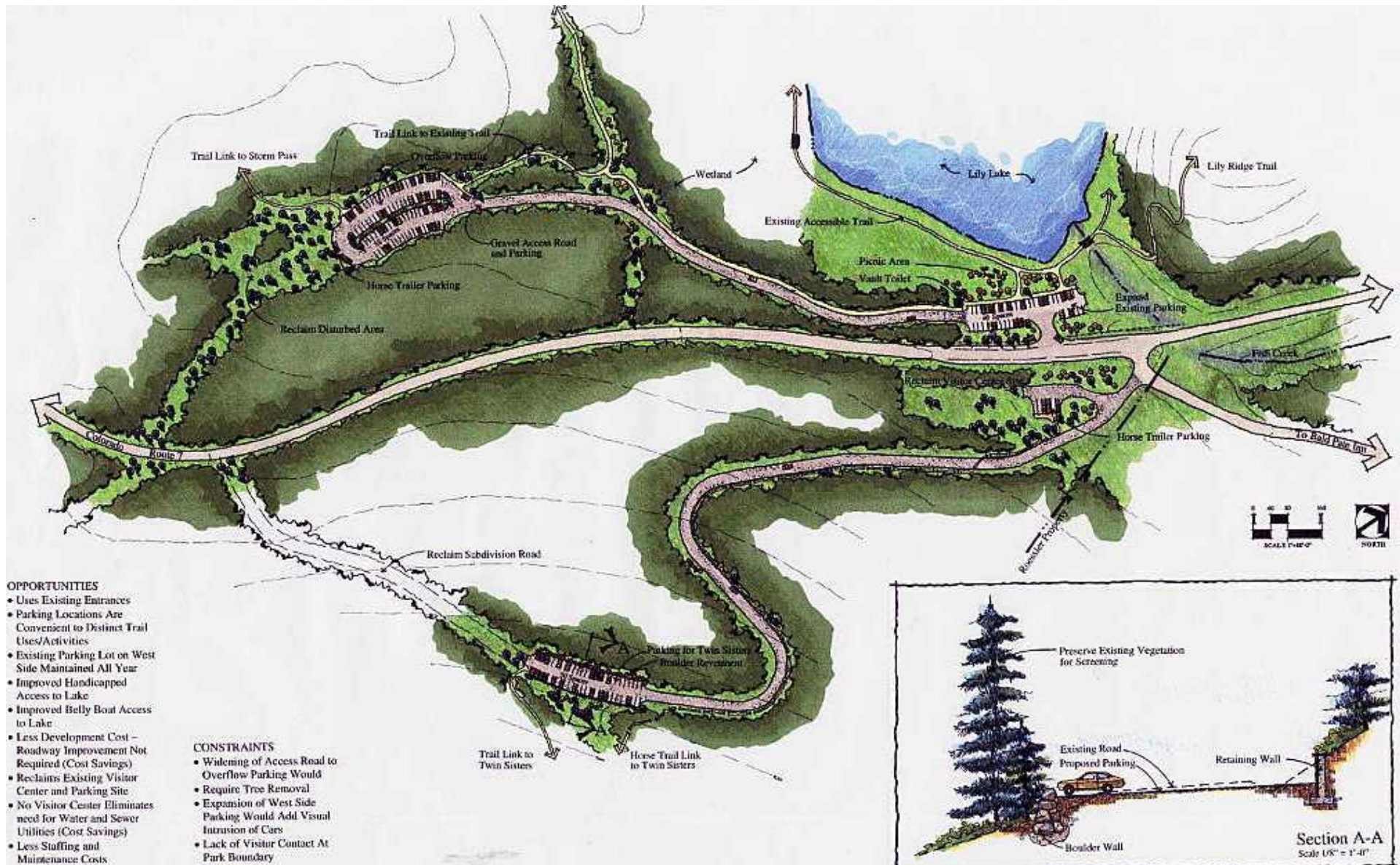
LILY LAKE

dhm design
ARCHITECTURE
1000 10th Avenue
DENVER, CO 80202
TEL: 303.733.8888

Barker
Rinker
Seacat
ARCHITECTURE

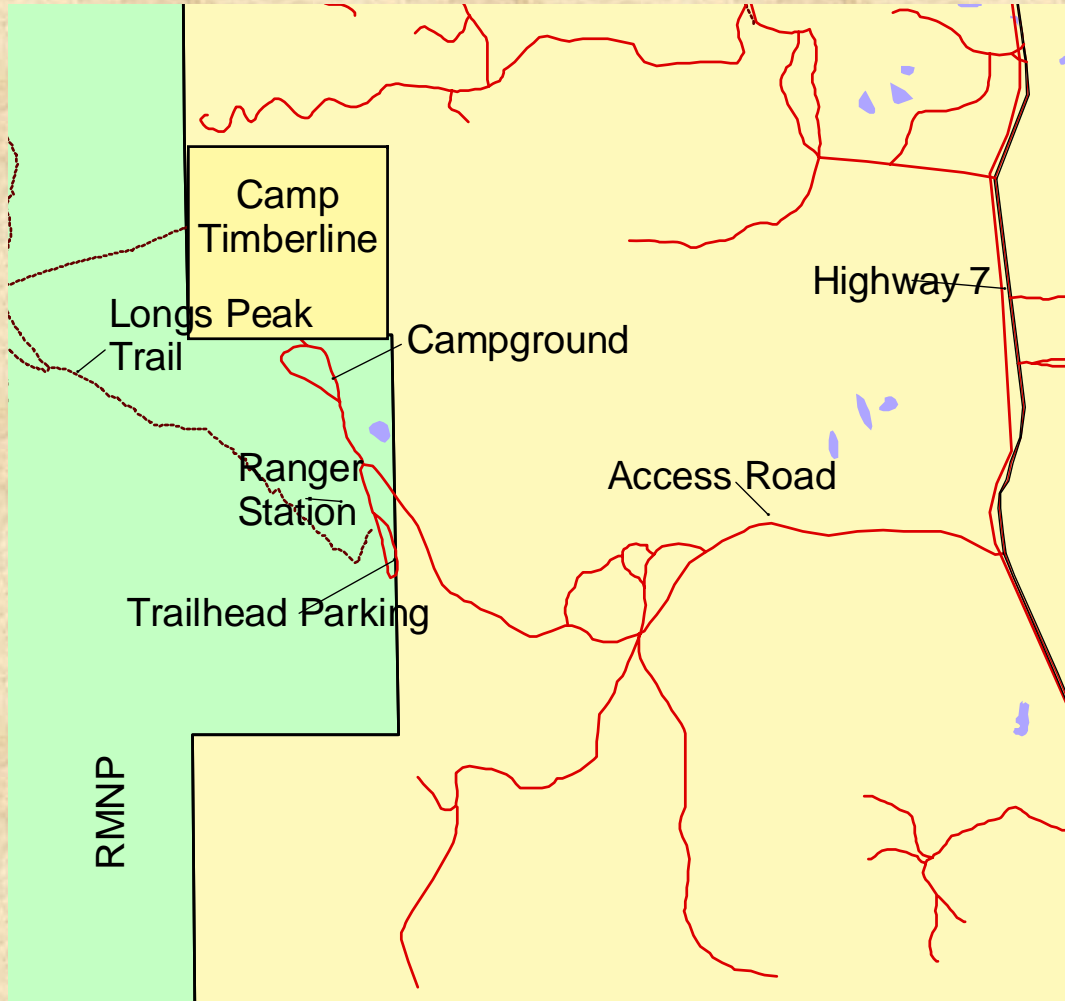
Prepared for: Rocky Mountain National Park
JANUARY 2000





OPTION 3 LILY LAKE

Longs Peak Trailhead Current Conditions



PUBLIC TRAILS

- Eugenia Mine Trail/Storm Pass Trail
- Longs Peak Trail

PARKING

- Longs Peak trailhead – 58 spaces

RESTROOMS

- Flush toilets

CAMPING

- Longs Peak Campground – 26 tent sites available on a first-come, first-served basis
- Approximately 2,000 camping nights per year
- Vault toilet
- Fee - \$20 per night

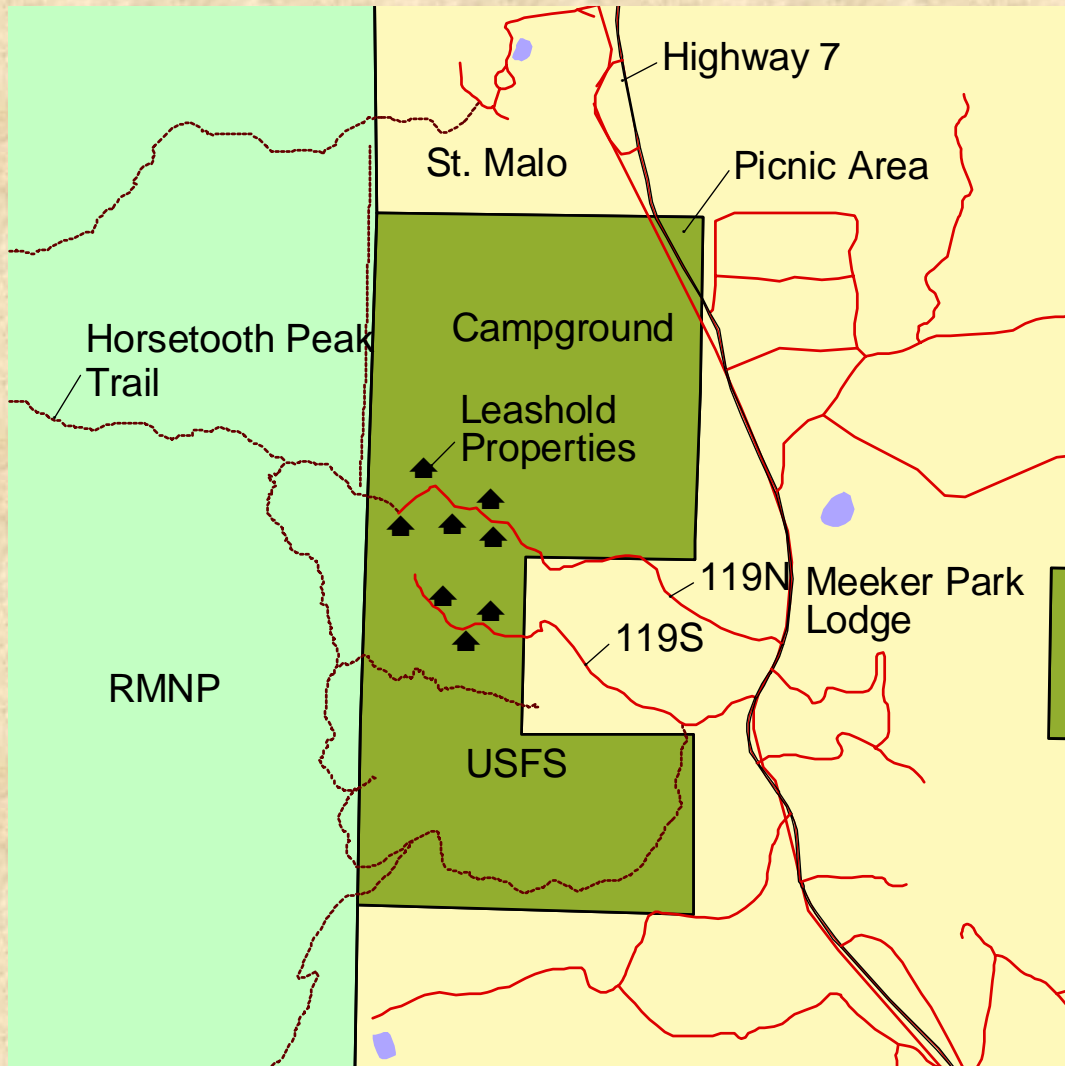
PARK ACCESS FEE

- None

Issues/Opportunities Identified at Longs Peak Trailhead

- Overflow parking extends down the county road outside the park most days during the summer
- Only vehicle access to Camp Timberline is through the Longs Peak Campground.
- Noise from Camp Timberline activities impacts campers
- Potential to close the campground and expand parking
- Potential to install entrance station to manage access and assist with enforcement of no parking along the county road
- Potential to implement a permit system for Longs Peak to manage visitor use

Meeker Park Campground Current Conditions



PUBLIC TRAILS

- Horsetooth Peak Trail
- Lookout Mountain Trail
- Access to Wild Basin

PICNIC AREA

- East side of Hwy 7
- 8 picnic tables
- No fee

RESTROOMS

- Available at picnic area
- Portable toilets in campground

CAMPING

- Meeker Park Campground – 29 sites
- Approximately 900 camping nights per year
- Fee - \$8 per night

Issues/Opportunities Identified at Meeker Park Campground

- Opportunity to provide a more formal campground with upgraded amenities:
 - Potable water • Restroom facilities • Picnic Tables • Tent pads • Defined parking spaces • Improved roadways
- Potential to develop additional campsites
 - Add 26 sites if Longs Peak Campground is closed?
 - The site is suitable for more campsites if desired and a market study demonstrates there is a need
- Informal trailhead for Horsetooth Peak and Lookout Mountain at the end of county road 113N affects leaseholder cabins
 - Potential to develop a formal trailhead that is removed from leaseholder cabins

Next Steps

- August 14 – Public open house at the Aspen Lodge, Longs Peak Room. 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- September 30, 2006 – Complete initial public scoping. **Please submit your written thoughts, concerns and ideas by that date.**
- Fall 2006 – Completion of field inventories at Lily Lake, Longs Peak Trailhead and Meeker Park Campground (wetlands, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, etc.)
- Fall 2006 – Development of alternatives. Public review and comment on alternatives.
- Winter 2006/2007 Development of Recreation Improvements Plan and Environmental Assessment which will evaluate environmental, cultural and social impacts of the alternatives.
- Spring 2007 – Minimum 30-day public review and comment period on the plan.

Written Comments

- Superintendent
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Estes Park, CO 80517
Fax: (970) 586-1397
Email: romo_superintendent@nps.gov
- Highway 7 Recreation Improvements Project
U.S. Forest Service
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